

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 026205

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ORIGIN NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 MC-02 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 /184 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:GDSTRONG:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. DAVIES

EUR/IB - MR. SMITH

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

PM/SAS - MR. SMITH

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R 072356Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SP, IZ, U.S.

SUBJECT: SPANISH SALE OF 106 MILLIMETER RECOILLESS

RIFLES TO IRAQ

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

1. AMB. SAGAZ CALLED ON NEA DEPUTY ASST. SECY. DAVIES ON FEB. 7 TO REQUEST AGAIN THAT WE AGREE TO SALE BY SPAIN OF 200 RECOILLESS RIFLES TO IRAQ. AMB. EMPHASIZED PRESIDENT BAKR OF IRAQ SENT LETTER DIRECTLY TO GENERAL FRANCO REQUESTING PURCHASE OF RIFLES. HE CONTINUED THAT RIFLES WERE COMPLETELY PRODUCED IN SPAIN, THAT THEY WERE CONSIDERED OBSOLETE IN U.S. AND THAT NUMBER WAS REALLY VERY SMALL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "BLUEPRINT" FOR RIFLES HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 026205

BEEN RECEIVED FROM U.S. SEVERAL YEARS AGO BUT MENTIONED

THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT REQUIRING SPAIN TO CONSULT WITH U.S. BEFORE RIFLES COULD BE EXPORTED TO THIRD COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH GOS HAD AGREED INFORMALLY TO CONSULT WITH USG RE ANY SUCH SALES. AMB. SAGAZ SAID THERE IS HIGH LEVEL INTEREST IN MATTER BECAUSE REQUEST FROM IRAQ CAME IN FORM OF A PERSONAL LETTER TO GENERAL FRANCO, AND ALSO BECAUSE OF SPAIN'S DEPENDENCE ON MIDDLE EAST FOR PETROLEUM. HE ADDED THAT SINCE U.S. HAD REFUSED SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN ENERGY CONFERENCE, SPAIN WOULD HAVE TO WORK ON SOLUTIONS TO ITS ENERGY PROBLEM ITSELF.

2. AMB. CONTINUED THAT SINCE 1967 WAR SPAIN HAD NOT PROVIDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ANY OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN THAT WAR, ALTHOUGH IT HAD RECEIVED REQUESTS

FOR EQUIPMENT. IN CONCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY GOS TO REQUEST THAT WE RECONSIDER OUR REFUSAL TO AGREE TO SPAIN'S REQUEST FOR THE SALE OF THE RIFLES.

3. IN RESPONDING TO AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT, DAVIES SAID WE FAVOR STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN IRAQ AND WEST AND IRAQI TIES WITH SPAIN ARE PART AND PARCEL OF THIS. DAVIES COMMENTED AMB. RIVERO HAD PRESENTED THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S ARGUMENTS CLEARLY.

4. HOWEVER, DAVIES SAID THE REQUEST BY SPAIN GIVES US GREAT PROBLEMS. FROM A POLITICAL VIEWPOINT WE VIEW ALL MILITARY DELIVERIES TO THE MIDDLE EAST AS VERY SENSITIVE. IRAQ, WHICH SENT FORCES TO SYRIA DURING OCTOBER WAR, POSES A PARTICULAR PROBLEM SINCE IT OPPOSES OUR EFFORTS TOWARD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTS SPLINTER FEDAYEEN TERRORIST GROUPS.

5. DAVIES SAID OUR ARMS POLICY IS NOT TO SELL ARMS TO STATES LIKE IRAQ WHICH BROKE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSWITH US DURING 1967 WAR AND HAVE NOT RESUMED THEM. WE ARE PROHIBITED BY U.S. LAW FROM APPROVING A SALE OF U.S. LICENSED ARMS BY ANOTHER STATE IF THE SAME ARMS WOULD NOT BE APPROVABLE FOR DIRECT EXPORT FROM THE U.S. TO PROPOSED RECIPIENT.
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PAGE 03 STATE 026205

6. DAVIES CONCLUDED THAT THE ARMS POLICY OF U.S. WOULD NOT PERMIT US TO SELL THE RIFLES TO IRAQ NOR TO CONCUR IN THE SALE OF THE U.S. LICENSED RIFLES TO IRAQ BY OTHER COUNTRIES. CONSEQUENTLY IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT WE CANNOT AGREE TO THE SPANISH REQUEST. (COMMENT: SAGAZ APPEARED TO EXPECT THIS RESPONSE AND SIMPLY SMILED AND SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS.) KISSINGER

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